

two were treated for six weeks each, and now two months have elapsed and they are doing well, while in the others the disease was further advanced and they are still under treatment, gaining about one pound in weight each week.—*Merck's Archives*, 1900, No. 3, p. 88.

Carrasquilla's Serum Treatment of Epilepsy.—MR FRANK TIDSWELL was engaged for nine months in testing this method. Two patients were treated patiently, perseveringly, and continuously during this period, but not the slightest improvement was noted; but, on the contrary, the disease continued to progress in both patients. The report closes with the citations from current literature showing that others have failed, and their results have been of a uniformly discouraging nature.—*Intercolonial Medical Journal of Australasia*, 1900, vol. v., p. 233.

Peronin.—DOTT. FERDINANDO BATTISTINI finds that while this substance resembles codeine in its absence of hypnotic effect and in large doses giving rise to convulsions of bulbo-cerebral origin, on the other hand, it acts in a quarter of the dose of the latter, and should be considered as a heart-poison. It diminishes cough by lessening the sensibility of the bronchial mucous membrane. Locally it is anæsthetic (rabbits) in 1 per cent. solution when instilled into the conjunctival sac, and does not produce cloudiness of the cornea, but in man it produces abundant lachrymation, marked conjunctival injection, and chemosis. In daily doses of about a grain it produces regular and deep sleep in paralytics during the period of excitation, and even can be classed with paraldehyde, chloral, and morphine in intensity of action. Its untoward effects have received much attention; danger to the heart, profuse sweating, intense headache, itching, nausea, dryness of the throat may result, and in general various forms of malnutrition, as catarrhal and tuberculous affections of the larynx, bronchitis, and pulmonary diseases are contraindications to its use. The ordinary dose is about double that of morphine, the maximum daily amount being two and one-half grains.—*Rivista Critica di Clinica Medica*, 1900, No. 4, p. 103.

Pathology of Lobar Pneumonia as a Basis for Treatment.—DR. J. K. CROOK believes that in the near future we may have an antipneumotoxic serum to combat inflammations of the lung due to the pneumococcus. At present results are not satisfactory, and the older expectant methods of treatment are advised. The writer considers *seriatim*: 1. Calomel. Large doses, twenty to sixty grains, may be given at the outset of the disease to render the exudate derived from the blood unfit for sustaining microbic life. Of thirty grains administered perhaps five enter the blood as a soluble albuminate. Here a still smaller quantity is converted to the perchloride—more than a third of a grain cannot be tolerated. It is known that the mercurial solution quickly disappears, for it is soon found in the urine, bile, etc. The antiseptic is in a very attenuated form when it comes in contact with the micro-organisms. Whether it still possesses power as a germicide is an open question. 2. Quinine. Within six hours half of the exhibited dose is eliminated by the urine. It is a powerful antiseptic, and it has been shown that a 1 per cent. solution is fatal to the diplococcus pneumoniae in five minutes.

As to its influence on the microbe in man, whether it disqualifies the blood for supplying a culture for the organisms, or whether it acts directly as a germicide, nothing is known. 3. Salicylic acid. Mention is made of recent exceedingly favorable reports (Schering, Liegel); the writer has found only a slight lowering of the temperature and increased expectoration. There was no influence over the usual course of the disease. There are no researches to show that the salicylates exert any influence on the pneumococcus in the living body. 4. Chloroform is useful for its sedation of the nervous system and its anticoagulating influence on the blood. Given by inhalation its fumes are brought into close contact with the pneumococci when used early, before the small bronchi are blocked by exudate. Its effect on the germs is also unknown. 5. Creosote is largely excreted by the lungs, and is thus brought into direct contact with the bacteria; there are no data concerning its action on the germs, and the same is true of carbolic acid. Conclusions are: Recognition of a pathogenic microbe increases the hope that an efficient antitoxin may be discovered. The use of antiseptics for the destruction of pathogenic organisms in the tissues is very limited. Pneumonia is a self-limited disease with a tendency to recovery if the patient can be kept alive for a few days. While new germicidal remedies may be tried, they should not as yet supersede an intelligent form of expectant treatment, which results in a far lower mortality than attempts to abort the disease.—*Medicine*, 1900, No. 4, p. 277.

A Comparative Study of Digitalis and its Derivatives.—DR. JOHN P. ARNOLD and HORATIO C. WOOD, JR., have made a careful review of the literature and performed some laboratory experiments, from which they draw the following conclusions: (1) Digitalin and digitoxin each represent the full circulatory power of digitalis. (2) Digitalis, digitalin, and digitoxin stimulate the cardio-inhibitory mechanism, both centrally and peripherally; in larger doses they paralyze the intrinsic cardio-inhibitory apparatus. (3) They all cause a rise of blood-pressure by stimulating the heart and constricting the bloodvessels. (4) Very large doses paralyze the heart muscle of the mammal, the organ stopping in diastole. (5) Digitoxin is not to be recommended for human medication on account of its irritant action, which makes it liable to upset the stomach when given by the mouth, or to cause abscesses when given hypodermatically, and, on account of its insolubility, which renders it slowly absorbable and irregularly eliminated, having a marked tendency to cumulative action. (6) Digitalin of a particular manufacturer has been found to be a stable compound, one grain being equivalent to about one and one-fifth drachms of tincture of digitalis.—*Merck's Archives*, 1900, No. 9, p. 351.

Thyroid Extract in Psoriasis.—DR. LEONARD WEBER reports that a nervous young woman, with uric-acid and rheumatic symptoms, received one five-grain tablet of this substance thrice daily for two months; at the end of this time all the areas of eruption (some fifty or more) had disappeared. The only local treatment was the application of a 25 per cent. aristol ointment. Four months after stopping the remedy no relapse had occurred.—*The Post-Graduate*, 1900, No. 9, p. 1103.